



You can save a life as a living organ donor

A step-by-step living donor guide



VCUHealth™

Hume-Lee
Transplant Center

vcuhealth.org/livingdonors

If a loved one needs a kidney or liver transplant – or you feel inspired to help save a life – you may consider becoming a living organ donor.

We want to provide the information, support and reassurance you need.



We've prepared this chart to help you understand the living organ donation process. Our team of transplant experts will guide you through each step of the living organ donation process, from pre-transplant evaluation to recovery and lifestyle planning.

START

Donor Health Questionnaire

1



Prospective donor to complete a detailed background health questionnaire. The VCU Health Hume-Lee living donation team will contact prospective donor following submission.

Appointment to meet members of the VCU Health Hume-Lee care team and complete initial laboratory testing, including blood draws. Testing can be performed elsewhere for prospective donors outside the Richmond area.



2

Initial Lab Testing

Donor Identified

3



VCU Health Hume-Lee Transplant Center living donor coordinator will contact you if you're a match for a prospective recipient.

Prospective donor appointment at VCU Health Hume-Lee Transplant Center clinic for diagnostic testing and review tissue typing. Additional lab work, testing and appointments may be required following this evaluation.



4

Full Evaluation

Selection Committee

5



Transplant centers are required to assemble a multidisciplinary team to review each patient in order to determine candidacy. A decision to move forward with donation will be made based on a number of factors, including medical suitability and results from psychosocial evaluation.

Donor will meet with transplant surgeon, complete final laboratory tests and confirm living donation transplant date.



6

Pre-Surgery Appointment

FINISH

Making an informed decision

Donating an organ is a big decision, and one that's made by hundreds of people each year. It's important to consider the impact to you and your family.

Social impact

Making the decision to become a living donor is a personal one that deserves serious thought. You'll want to discuss your decision with your friends and family to ensure you'll have a strong support system to rely upon.

Financial impact

The financial impact of becoming a living donor is something you want to consider. Most of the expenses related to organ donation, such as lab work, x-rays, and doctors' and hospital charges, are paid by the recipient's insurance.

You, as a donor, will be responsible for lost wages due to time off work, travel expenses to and from the transplant center and follow-up care. Our transplant and financial coordinators can offer resources for additional financial support for donors.

Physical impact

Surgery of any kind carries basic risks. Keep in mind that Hume-Lee has experience with complex cases. This knowledge allows us to reduce the risks of complications during transplant surgery.

Becoming a living organ donor does not reduce your life expectancy nor pose any long-term health risks for most people. To determine your candidacy, our transplant team will review your health history, current health and other aspects of the living donor process.

Did you know?



Almost everyone is born with **2 kidneys**, which are located underneath the protective cage of the ribs.

The liver can regenerate itself!

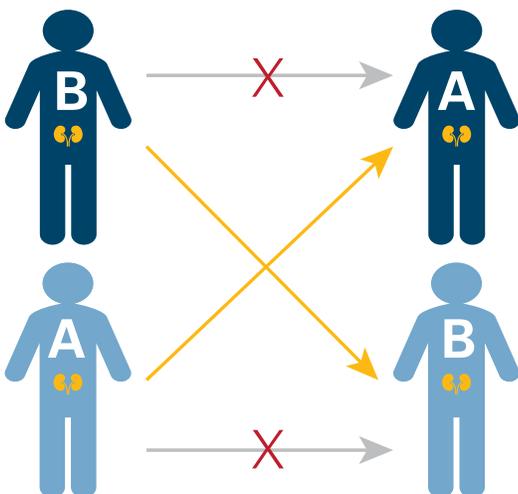


If it is damaged, or a portion is surgically removed, it will grow back to normal size and function within a few weeks.

LIVING DONOR PAIRED EXCHANGE PROGRAM

Potential living donors

Potential recipients



Your Donation Recipient

If you are not a match to donate to the person you know, you may still be able to donate your organ to someone else in need through our living donor paired exchange program. Our experts help find an unrelated match for your kidney, and locate an unrelated match for your family member, too. So, two recipients receive an organ with two living donors.

VCU Health Hume-Lee Transplant Center also coordinates kidney exchange chains, where one altruistic living donor starts a series of transplants between donor and recipient pairs, either at Hume-Lee or in collaboration with other transplant centers across the nation.

VCU Health Hume-Lee Transplant Center

We believe in the life-saving power of living donation. Hume-Lee Transplant Center has a long history of performing successful adult and pediatric living donor kidney and liver transplants. Both procedures have significant benefits to the recipient.

- Reduce wait times to transplantation
- Offer immediate transplantation of a healthy, functioning organ
- Decrease rejection risks if receiving an organ donated by a genetic-match relative

Hume-Lee Transplant Center is one of the nation's leading transplant programs, with a pioneering living donor organ donation program. We're also pioneers in robot-assisted surgeries. Hume-Lee was the first transplant center on the East Coast to complete a successful robotic-assisted kidney implantation without hand assistance.

Our dedicated team continues to identify and implement cutting-edge technology to improve already strong patient outcomes.

Your organ transplant team

The entire Hume-Lee transplant team works together to support you and ensure your donation is successful. For a living donation, the donor and recipient will have separate treatment teams.

The team members who may be involved in your care include:

- Nurse coordinator
- Social worker
- Independent living donor advocate
- Transplant surgeon
- Transplant nurses
- Lab technicians
- Radiologists
- Financial coordinator
- Dietician
- Other physician specialists (i.e., endocrinologist, gastroenterologist, cardiologist)



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300+
KIDNEY
TRANSPLANTS

Performed Annually

40
LIVING KIDNEY
DONATIONS

in 2025



175+
LIVER
TRANSPLANTS

Performed Annually

26
LIVING LIVER
DONATIONS

in 2025

After your donation

Hume-Lee surgeons use minimally invasive robotic surgical techniques when possible. This means that many of our donors can expect smaller incisions and a quicker recovery time. Most living kidney donors stay in the hospital an average of two to three days after the donation procedure and have an additional two to four weeks of recovery time. For living liver donors, their hospital stays are four to seven days, with an additional four to six weeks of recovery time.

During recovery, you will experience some pain and discomfort. This should be easily relieved with either a prescribed medication or over-the-counter pain relievers. Depending on the type of work you do, kidney donors may be able to return to their job as soon as two weeks after surgery. Living liver donors may be able to return to work as soon as four weeks. There will be follow-up appointments and tests to monitor your health.

Still have questions?

Our transplant team is here answer questions about your transplant journey.

Call **(804) 828-2762** to speak with a team member or for more information visit vcuhealth.org/livingdonors.